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Summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 12 October 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/56/3, 83, 151, 155, 222, 380, A/56/402-E/2001/105 and A/56/403) (*continued*)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (A/56/3, 83, 157 and 222) (*continued*)

1. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, said that their Governments shared the opinions expressed by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Rio Group, and reaffirmed their political will to confront the global drug problem at all levels and strengthen international cooperation as an effective instrument to combat it.

2. They had been working in various interrelated areas in order to comply with essential international requirements in the fight against drugs. The most significant efforts included: elaboration, adoption and implementation of national anti-drug plans; signature and ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials; design and application of an integrated system to collect, analyse and maintain statistics and documents on the reduction of supply and demand and on control measures; elaboration and adoption of a national demand-reduction strategy, based on the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction; establishment or strengthening of prevention programmes; and studies to determine the dimensions of drug consumption among the general population.

3. Within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic had contributed to developing a multilateral evaluation mechanism to monitor progress in hemispheric efforts to deal with the problem; the mechanism made periodic recommendations to member States aimed at improving their ability to control drug abuse and trafficking and at strengthening multilateral cooperation.

4. At the subregional level, ongoing efforts were being made to elaborate a Central American plan of action within the permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of Drug Abuse, Production and Illicit Trafficking, taking into consideration the elements defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the related Action Plan adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

5. The international community had reached a historic consensus on the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and also all groups that used terror and violence against civilians as a means of achieving their objectives, which threatened international peace and security. Groups that obtained their wealth from drug trafficking, organized crime, arms trafficking and related crimes, including money-laundering, were a scourge on society, and the international community should expand its efforts to combat them with the same energy and determination with which it combated terrorist groups.

6. **Mr. Stuart** (Australia) said that the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, adopted at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, acknowledged the need for the international community to address the challenges posed by transnational organized crime. It recognized the need for cooperation among States in combating global criminal activity, especially people smuggling and people trafficking.

7. People smuggling was an issue of particular concern to many countries, not just those that were a destination, such as Australia, but also source and transit countries. It was a growing area of transnational criminal activity that sought to profit from the misfortunes of the dispossessed and vulnerable. The profitability of people smuggling and trafficking rivalled that of narcotics, with proceeds estimated at some $10 billion a year, and it appeared that the same criminal networks were involved in both activities. Australia was strongly committed to fighting against people smuggling. Its policies and laws sought to deter and disrupt the activities of such criminal networks. However, no country or organization could solve the problem unilaterally.

8. The international community should not allow the refugee-protection system to be abused by people smugglers and those who sought their services. A determined international effort was necessary in order to develop a coherent approach by implementing

effective laws that punished perpetrators, strengthening border protection and enforcement, developing systems that ensured the prompt return and readmission of illegal migrants and enhancing cooperation among law-enforcement agencies. The United Nations had an important role to play, and should adopt a more coordinated response.

9. Australia would continue to work closely with its regional partners to examine ways to develop regional solutions. It would also seek multilateral solutions through the United Nations, focusing particularly on the commitments outlined in the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and on implementation of the existing programmes of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It urged Member States to give the necessary urgency to transnational organized crime and to increase support for international efforts to combat people smuggling through close regional and international cooperation.

10. **Mr. Mei** Yuncai (China) said that, owing to advances in science and technology and the growth of communications, many criminal activities now transcended borders and extended to the political and economic realm, causing serious harm to the normal social order, political stability and economic development of States. His delegation supported recent United Nations activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.

11. His Government had helped draft the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, annexed to General Assembly resolution 55/25, and had signed the Convention on the day that it had been opened for signature. The Convention could play its expected role in combating transnational organized crime only if implemented effectively. Considering the many practical difficulties facing developing countries, the international community should provide technical and financial assistance to enable them to implement the Convention and collaborate in combating transnational organized crime.

12. The fight against corruption had become a common task facing all countries. Sharing experiences and also implementing international cooperation against corruption would help counter the problem. China was participating actively in the drafting of an instrument against corruption as requested in General Assembly resolution 55/61.

13. Groups involved in transnational organized crime currently represented the most harmful form of criminality facing mankind, and many were closely connected to terrorist activities. The Chinese Government was ready to join other Governments and the United Nations to prevent and combat such crime in order to safeguard social and economic development.

14. **Ms. Seo** Bihn (Republic of Korea) said that the international community had made great strides in crime prevention. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols were the major vehicle to eradicate corruption, trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime, and Member States should sign and ratify them promptly.

15. The adoption of the Convention and its protocols provided momentum for an international framework against corruption. Her delegation hoped that the cooperative spirit that had prevailed during the adoption of the Convention would carry over into the upcoming negotiations on the international legal instrument against corruption currently be elaborated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/61. Her Government had offered to host the third Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and the eleventh International Anti-Corruption Conference in Seoul in 2003.

16. Since the responsibilities of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention had increased, the financial basis of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme should be strengthened by increased resources from the regular budget as well as voluntary contributions from Member States. Meanwhile, the Programme should focus on achievable priority areas, while endeavouring to enhance the efficiency of technical assistance.

17. Controlling the manufacture and transfer of illicit drugs was another challenge that required attention. Her Government had reaffirmed its commitment to the action plans and other measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Most Member States had instituted a national drug-control strategy, incorporating the goals and targets identified at the special session and, through political will and international support, the trade in illicit drugs had been curbed in some regions. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime further contributed to judicial cooperation and

criminalized money-laundering. Nevertheless, a firmer resolve was required in order to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention.

18. Synthetic drugs were being increasingly consumed by young people owing to the unrestrained availability of precursors, the simplicity of manufacturing and the difficulty of controlling the constantly changing raw materials used for their production. It was therefore imperative to maintain the commitment to sharing information about new chemicals used for their manufacture and re-evaluating the scope of substance control.

19. **Ms. Limpias** (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), said that their Governments' political will to combat illicit drugs was reflected in the implementation of the Andean plan for cooperation to combat illicit drugs and related crimes, established at the June 2001 summit meeting of the Presidents of the countries of the Andean Community.

20. In that regard, opening world markets to the products of countries committed to the fight against drugs would make a significant contribution to the effort. The renewal and expansion of the Andean Trade Preference Act, which would expire on 4 December 2001, were essential for the future of the common effort. That regime had made a significant contribution to the economic and social development of the Andean countries by helping to generate employment and legal alternatives to activities linked to drug production and trafficking. That model, together with others such as the Andean Generalized System of Preferences granted by the European Union, were extremely useful. Indeed, the commitment of the industrialized countries to improving the economic and social situation in the Andean countries was essential.

21. **Mr. Chuguihuara** (Peru) associated himself with the statements made by the representative of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, and by the representative of Bolivia, speaking on behalf of the Andean Community.

22. He said that the production and consumption of and illegal trafficking in drugs continued to pose a major problem for humanity. Recalling the measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, he stressed that the globalization of the drug problem called for more committed participation of the international community based on shared responsibility, in accordance with each country's economic capacity and with full respect for international law. It also required an integrated approach, in which no aspect was favoured to the detriment of others.

23. Accordingly, Peru advocated increased international cooperation in combating that evil through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for enhancing the operational capacity of the forces of law and order and financing alternative-development projects in drug-producing areas at no extra cost to the beneficiary countries. Stable channels should also be established for the flow of investment and for preferential placement of products from those areas on international markets.

24. One of the basic objectives of his Government's development policy was the eradication of all aspects of the drug trade, founded on a threefold goal: reduced coca cultivation, replacing it with alternative-development and environmental-conservation programmes; comprehensive prevention and treatment to reduce drug abuse; and suppression, through law enforcement, of illegal drug production and trafficking, in the interests of human rights and dignity.

25. Those objectives had gone hand in hand with a three-pronged strategy of prohibition, alternative development, and prevention and rehabilitation, in strict observance of agreements concluded and international declarations. Properly conceived and enforced prohibition was vital for generating conditions conducive to alternative development; without it, the profitability of legal farm products would decline, whereas it was needed to guarantee security and make viable the investment and productive activity required for alternative programmes.

26. The existence of vast expanses of land in Peru devoted to illegal crops had often stemmed from farmers' socio-economic needs and pressure from crime syndicates fuelled by growing international demand. Peru therefore considered alternative development — in the form of both crop substitution and the creation of new, profitable, environmentally sustainable economic activities that would enable the inhabitants to escape the pernicious international drug circuit — to be a priority strategy for reducing production of the raw material used to manufacture drugs.

27. The drug phenomenon had an important national security component. Very recently in Peru, social and economic instability had served to tie drug trafficking to terrorism, which inevitably destroyed the foundations of any political, social or economic system. For that reason, his Government was committed to strengthening the social fabric with a view to ensuring lasting solutions.

28. Lastly, in his Government's resolve to eradicate the scourge of drugs, President Toledo had recently appointed an "anti-drug czar", whose sole task would be to do battle with the country's grave drug problem.

29. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) called on the international community to bring to the drug problem a holistic, balanced approach based on shared responsibility, as agreed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Recognition of the global nature of the problem and of the need to make common cause in dealing with it had been one of the major advances.

30. As pointed out in the Hemispheric Report 1999-2000 of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism for drug control of the Organization of American States (OAS), drug trafficking had become sophisticated and employed the means of globalization. For their trafficking in illicit drugs, controlled substances and weapons, and for money-laundering, international crime syndicates used the same resources and mechanisms as did international trade in goods and services. With globalization the deleterious effects of the drug trade and its attendant evils now crossed borders and threatened all nations.

31. At the 2001 Summit of the Americas, President Pastrana had stressed that the drug problem was not Colombia's alone, but had its epicentre in all countries of America, which, in one way or another, were links in the chain of pain and death.

32. By the same token, globalization provided opportunities for concerted action in the war against illicit drugs. But, to that end, local positions must be abandoned in favour of joint action at each and every stage. In that connection, his country assigned priority to the commitment made in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to establish by 2003 new or enhanced demand-reduction strategies. His delegation underscored the need for full implementation of the related Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Plan of Action if those goals were to be met.

33. There was an urgent need for well-thought-out strategies with which to grapple with the impending challenges of synthetic drugs, which experts considered the most buoyant segment of the world drug trade. A holistic and balanced war against illicit drugs entailed not only an attack on supply and demand, but also firm action against drug-related crimes. Individual and subregional action could not possibly suffice. The challenge called for an intensive short-, medium- and long-term policy that underpinned the principles of multilateralism, shared responsibility and balance.

34. At the national level, Colombia was still striving to extinguish the flame that drugs had added to the country's internal strife; at the Andean level, it was working for implementation of the Andean Cooperation Plan for Control of Illegal Drugs and Related Offences; and at the hemispheric level, the Minister for Foreign Affairs had called for a specialized conference to pinpoint new inter-American political and technical cooperation activities under the auspices of the OAS and of the United Nations.

35. Since 11 September the international community had been closely involved in the battle against terrorism. Everyone should remember that the financial networks that used terrorism were similar, if not the same, as those that serviced the traffic in drugs and illegal arms, especially small, light weapons.

36. To address terrorism in a spirit of shared responsibility entailed a head-on battle with those networks and an assault on money-laundering, which was their financial source. The assistance of the international community was fundamental in that regard, and the United Nations had a role to play by boosting the Global Programme against Money-laundering of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which provided technical cooperation to countries and conducted research. In addition to its permanent place on the agenda of the Commissions on Narcotic Drugs and on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, action to combat money-laundering called for a firmer, more comprehensive approach.

37. The countries faced with the worldwide problem of illicit drugs hoped that their efforts and achievements would receive full and just recognition. As stated earlier, his Government was ready to

contribute to that effort in a spirit of solidarity and with resolve.

38. **Mr. Tarabrin** (Russian Federation) said that unprecedented growth in transnational crime had been witnessed in recent years, representing a threat to the very stability and security of Governments. It also fostered the growth of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. The international community must respond vigorously to that danger, not as individual Governments or groups of countries, but on a global scale, and the United Nations had a central role to play in coordinating that response. The United Nations had also provided a solid basis in international law for the efforts of Governments to combat crime, and the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had been a landmark. Universal accession to that instrument would allow the mechanisms it contained to become effective.

39. Corruption and money-laundering also required international action. Work should begin as soon as possible on the text of a future legal instrument against corruption. His Government saw such an instrument as a strategic necessity: in the past year alone, it had lost over $3 billion to corruption. Those efforts would require close cooperation and clear channels for the exchange of information. The Russian Federation had taken steps to strengthen its legal framework in that area.

40. The problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs had become more severe in Russia over the past decade, and his delegation hoped that the coordination role of the United Nations in the global response to those problems would be enhanced. It welcomed the results of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

41. Almost two thirds of the illicit drugs entering the Russian Federation originated in Afghanistan, often destined for the markets of Western Europe and North America. His delegation strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to control the flow. Given the current conflict in that part of Asia, efforts were being made to ensure that the illicit drug trade did not shift to other Central Asian countries, and his delegation appreciated the support being provided to Central Asian Governments in their own efforts to combat that scourge. It also supported the International Narcotics Control Board in its position against the legalization of certain narcotic drugs or their removal from government control.

42. His Government would cooperate fully with other Member States in the long-term struggle against international crime and the illegal drug trade.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.